

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION AF-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L KADUNA 0908

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PDEV, NI
SUBJECT: MORE DETAILS ON NORTHERN POLITICAL ACTIVITY

REF: KADUNA 0900

1. ALHAJI ABUBAKAR TUGGAR, CA MEMBER FROM BAUCHI VISITED CONSULATE JULY 19 TO OBTAIN VISA FOR US. IN COURSE OF CONVERSATION WITH CONOFF AND PO HE DISCUSSED CURRENT NORTHERN POLITICAL ACTIVITY AS HE SAW IT. HE ECHOED A NOW FAMILIAR REFRAIN REPORTED REFTEL AND PREVIOUS THAT HVRTH IS ORGANIZING, THE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE IS NOT YET IDENTIFIED AND THE MIDDLE BELT WILL JOIN WITH THE NORTH.
 2. TUGGAR ALSO PROVIDED MORE DETAILED PICTURE OF HOW CURRENT POLITICAL ACTIVITY OGRANIZED. HE DESCRIBED NEW POLITICAL ORGANIZATION AS "UNITY FRONT" OF ALL TEN NORTHERN STATES WHICH LAGOS REPORTED PREVIOUSLY. HE SAID ORGANIZERS OF FRONT HAS SENT MESSAGE TO EACH LOCAL GOVERNMENT CHAIRMAN THROUGHOUT THE NORTH ASKING THEM TO ELECT FIVE REPRESENTATIVES FROM THEIR STATE TO ATTEND THE INAUGURAL MEETING. MEETINGS ARE ALL BEING HELD IN A SMI-CLANDESTINE MANNER--NEXT IN BAUCHI WILL BE AT SOMEONE'S WEDDING.
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AFTER BAN ON POLITICS IS LIFTED, HE ANTICIPATES FRONT WILL ORGANIZE NATIONAL CONVENTION WITH DELEGATES FROM EACH STATE, INCLUDING THE SOUTH, EQUAL TO NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL LEGISLATURE.

3. PARTY CONVENTION WILL SELECT CANDIDATE FROM AMONG THOSE DESIRING TO RUN FOR PRESIDENT. HIS LIST INCLUDED

THE USUAL NAMES, AMINU KANO, SHAGARI, ETC. HE ALSO SAID
THE YOUNGER NORTHERN POLITICIANS WERE PARTICIPATING IN

THIS ORGANIZING EFFORT. TUGGAR EMPHASIZED THAT THE
CONVENTION WOULD CHOOSE THE CANDIDATE AND THE PARTY WOULD
SUPPORT HIM WHOMEVER HE WAS. HE NOTED THIS WAS A DIFFERENT
APPROACH TO POLITICS THAN AWOLOWO'S SINCE HE WAS
RUNNING AS A MAN RATHER THAN CREATING A PARTY.

4. WHEN QUERIED AS TO THE OMISSION OF WAZIRI IBRAHAM
FROM HIS LIST OF PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES, TUGGAR SAID THAT
HE IS UNLIKELY TO BE THE MAN. ASIDE FROM FACT THAT
IBRAHAM IS ALREADY RUNNING AS AN INDIVIDUAL, HE NOTED
THAT BORNO HAD NOT ELECTED HIM AS ONE OF THE FIVE
REPRESENTATIVES TO THE ORGANIZATION MEETING AND, THEREFORE,
HE ASSUMED HE DID NOT HAVE YZPPORT IN HIS HOME STATE.

5. RE THE MIDDLE BELT CONNECTION, TUGGAR SAID THAT
TARKA IS DEFINITELY IN THE UNITY FRONT'S CAMP AND HE
BELIEVES TARKA SPEAKS FOR THE MIDDLE BELT IN GENERAL
AND THE TIV IN PARTICULAR. HE BRUSHED OFF UNONGO AND
CLUB 19 RATHER LIGHTLY NOTING THAT THEY HAD LITTLE
STRENGTH AND WERE NOW LOOKING TO AKINFOSILE AS THEIR
CANDIDATE. (CLEARLY A SOUTHERNER CAN NOT WITH IN
HIS VIEW.)

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6. RE THE LIFTING OF THE BAN ON POLITICS, TUGGAR
SAID HE DID NOT BELIEVE THE BAN WOULD BE LIFTED IN
THE NEAR FUTURE.

7. COMMENT: TUGGAR APPEARS TO BE KNOWLEDGEABLE AND
SPOKE QUITE FRANKLY IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS DURING THE
COURSE OF OUR CONVERSATION. HIS ANALYSIS APPEARS TO
AGREE WITH OTHER REPORTS, BUT PROVIDES MORE DETAIL.
LAKE

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NNN

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